

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to better define the claimed invention and to better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. Support for the amendment can be found throughout Applicants' originally filed disclosure. No new matter has been entered.

The art rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the newly cited patent publication US2004/0058222 to Zimmerman in view of Hirsch. However, it is respectfully submitted that no combination of Zimmerman with Hirsch can reasonably be said to achieve or render obvious Applicants' independent claim 1, or any of the several claims dependent thereon.

Independent claim 1 requires, in part, "a shutter member placed on the permeation control film and placed between the permeation film and the fuel vessel" and "a high concentration liquid fuel contained in the high concentration fuel vessel." As required by claim 1, the shutter member is placed between the permeation film and the fuel vessel, so the permeation film always contains the high concentration liquid, and the shutter member is placed on the permeation film. Thus, the concentration of the liquid fuel becomes higher immediately when the shutter member opens.

The Examiner admits that Zimmerman fails to provide any teaching of a shutter member, but cites Hirsch as allegedly providing the missing teachings. *See* Office Action at page 3. However, in contrast to the requirements of Applicants' amended independent claim 1, Hirsch teaches that the shutter (400) is located between the MDF and the membrane electrode assembly, but a space is included between the MDF and the shutter (400) as shown in Figure 2. Hirsch, paragraph [0057]. Thus, Hirsch fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of "a shutter member placed on the permeation control film and placed between the permeation film

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and the fuel vessel,” as required by claim 1, but rather teaches a shutter member spaced apart from the MDF, and located between the MDF and the membrane electrode assembly. The space is necessary because the shutter of Hirsch controls vapor fuel (as opposed to liquid fuel as required in Applicants’ claim 1). Indeed, Hirsch is concerned merely with creating a phase change such that the liquid fuel becomes a vaporous fuel as it passes through the MDF 112 into the vapor chamber 116.

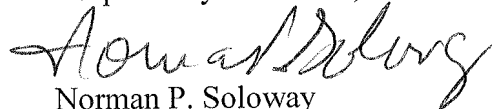
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that no combination of Zimmerman and Hirsch reasonably can be said to achieve or render obvious Applicants’ independent claim 1. Each of claims 3, 4, 6-9 and 11 depend from independent claim 1, and are therefore allowable over the cited combination for at least those same reasons adduced above relative to claim 1, as well as for their own, additional limitations.

RCE fees are being paid via EFS WEB in the amount of \$810.00.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent Office via the electronic filing procedure on August 4, 2011.

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